

Robinsons' Road



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Enhancing Trust



Story Sequels

H*VMI's most recent Increase focused on sharing stories from the various aspects of our ministry. We have heard great feedback. People have commented that they learned some new things about the ministry and the missionaries. In this letter, I'd like to share a couple of stories from my time in ministry over the last months. Some of them are sequels from the stories shared in my last prayer letter.

Approaching Activities:

NJ Banquet: April 22nd
BASIS Breakfast: May 6th
Handi*Camp: May 24th – July 6th
PIP Picnic: August 19th
Golf Outing: September 19th

Recruiting Record

Over the past months, I have traveled to more than a dozen colleges and churches to recruit staff for Handi*Camp. God blessed me with safe travel as I drove to, or through, seven states. The month of February was a whirlwind for me and for my family. My little Hannah was old enough to miss me and to know it. So, during that time I was praying for God's direction and provision and He sent me an amazing blessing.

I was at Geneva College. The day was slow. Not many students coming by to chat; but then a young woman walked in who had a disability. She came over to the table where Mark Amey (fellow recruiter and H*VMI missionary) and I had set up our display. She looked for a minute and said, "I really love what you guys are doing. People need to do this stuff." I nodded in agreement and echoed her sentiment. I told her that at Handi*Camp, we love telling people about Jesus. She looked at me very excited and said, "Yes! Because without Jesus, your life is like an empty closet!" I was very pleased with her excitement for the Lord but utterly confused by her analogy. An empty closet was not one that I remember hearing in nursery school. She went on to explain what I think now is one of the more profound assessments of the Christian life that I've heard in a while. She explained that without Jesus in your life, your closet is empty and you have nothing to wear, so when you go outside, people just see you. People are supposed to see Jesus when they look at you so it's good to have Jesus in your closet. I about fainted, I expected to talk about how fun Handi*Camp was for a while and maybe recruit a new Handi*Camper. Instead God showed me something amazing about Himself. Sometimes in the ministry people ask us questions about the capability of the people with disabilities we serve to understand the Gospel. Well we know and have seen that the Holy Spirit is not limited by our earthly minds. This young woman, at that recruiting day in Geneva, was so in love with the Lord that it flowed out of her. Everyone in the room could see it. So remember, make sure that you have Jesus in your closet. So when you go out in the morning, and people look at you, it's Jesus they see.

Bible Club Beats

At our most recent Bible club, the lesson was on God's blessing. We enjoyed sharing the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. Before Bible club, we heard that there were going to be several volunteers absent, a real concern when our ratio is stretched thin as it is; and the month prior, we had several significant behavior issues.

However, when the time came to start, we looked around and saw that we had enough people to run the evening and some to spare. The evening ended well and we praised the Lord as we all drove to our homes. These clubs are a great time to share God's Word with people with disabilities who are present and to allow for a night off for the parents of those people. I have to be careful to not stop there. Those two things are awesome and I feel privileged to be a part of it; but God's Word is powerful and it doesn't stop when Bible club is over. Here's an example...

I bumped into Adam, a young man who attends our Bible club, at a local eatery. We sat next to each other and chatted through dinner. I had my three year old daughter, Hannah, with me. At one point Adam asked Hannah this question: "Hannah, aren't you excited to see what Heaven will be like?!?" I sat there in stunned silence and waited for my daughter's answer.... She piped right up and said, "Jesus be there!" Adam got very excited and told Hannah she was right and that He was excited to see Jesus too. Hannah and I talked about this most of the way home. It had such an impact on her. I witnessed God using a person with a disability, who has put his trust in Him, to impact the life of a little one who is still unraveling the truth of her need for a Savior. I can say all the right things as a father who desires to see his children grow to love the Lord; but it is God who impacts our hearts and causes us to recognize our need for Him. God used Adam to help my daughter further understand His truths.

Please Pray...

... for preparations for Handi*Camp. We need more service staff and male counselors.

... for the continuing property preparations and planning.

... for my family as we balance life approaching and going to Handi*Camp. We have never tried camp with two children. My parents just chuckle when I ask what it was like for them with my sister and me.

... for me as I continue to be mentored by Tim Sheetz. We both continue to pray for the Lord's wisdom as we look ahead to a future transition.



Property Praise!!!

Since my last letter, H*VMI has had two very successful meetings with the Akron Borough Council. First, was a meeting on January 9th where we asked to have a public hearing scheduled to vote on the zoning changes that H*VMI requested. The Borough Council made the decision to schedule the vote. The date was set for February 13th. At the public hearing, H*VMI presented its case and fielded some questions from the audience. Then it was time for comments. Seven people stood in support of H*VMI, some that we didn't even know! Two camper parents testified to the camp's well run program and a local pastor extolled our various outreaches in the community. In the end, when the vote was cast, each and every council member, some who expressed major reservations initially, voted to approve the changes! PRAISE the LORD!!!

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